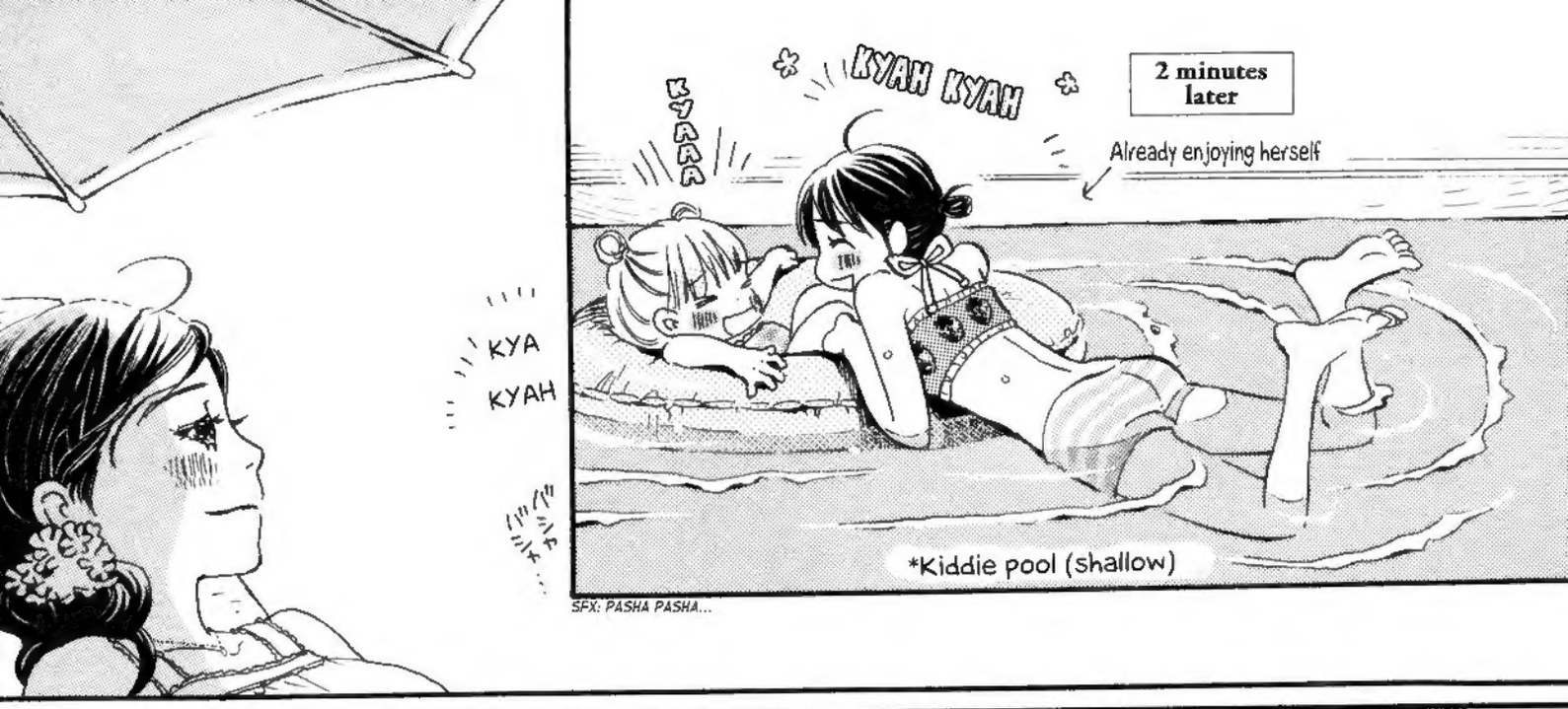
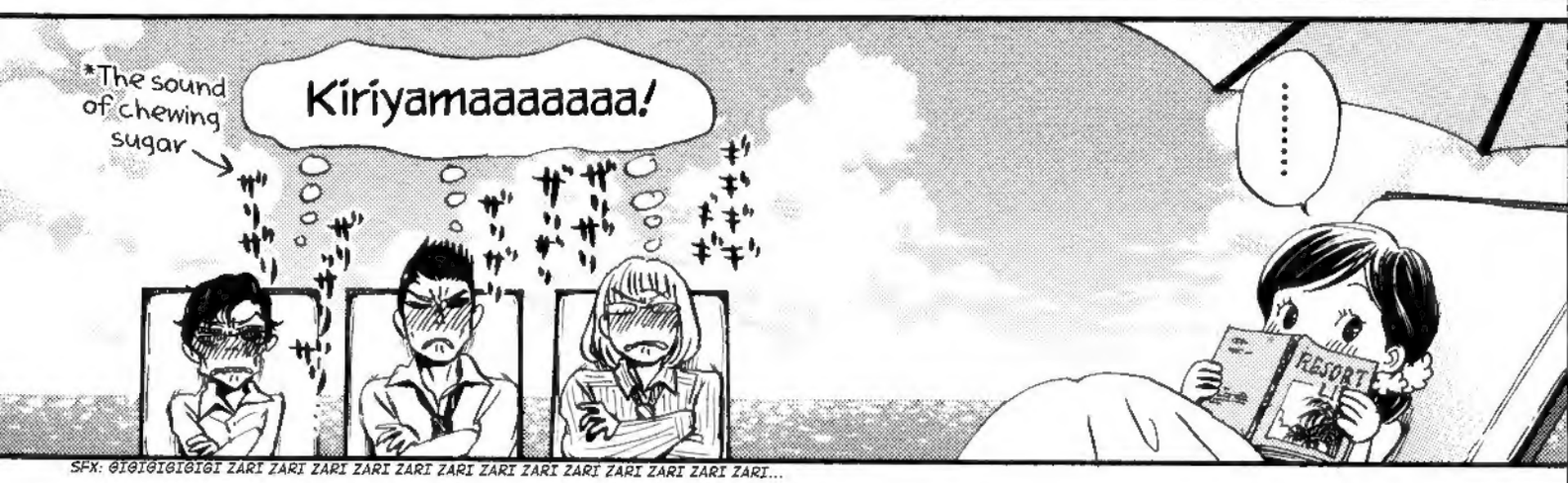
Chapter. 118

The Satsuma Arc ②

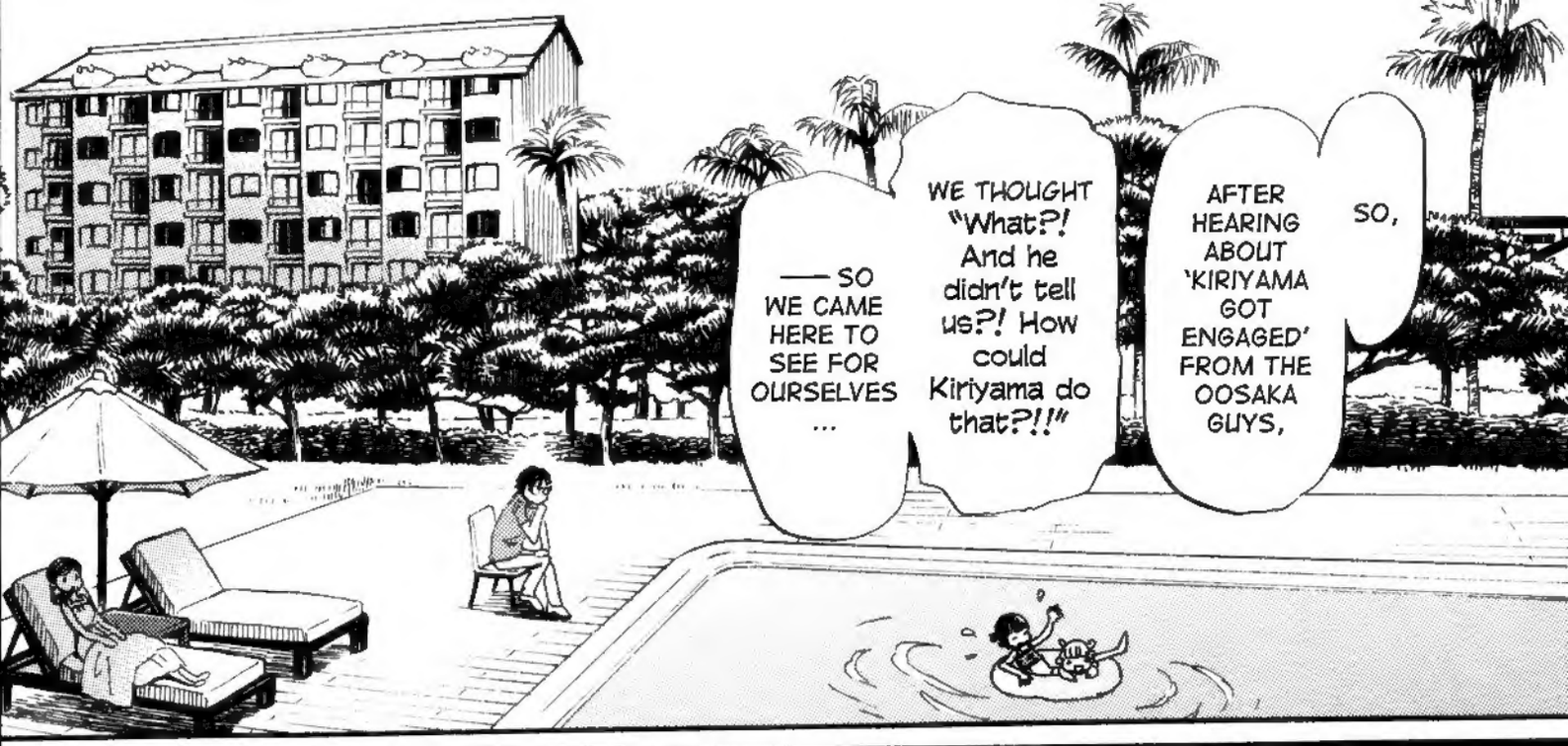
SFX: MOJI MOJI GONYO GONYO (FIDGETING)
もじもじ
……
Kiriyama-kun will see, too...
B... BUT!
WELL YEAH, IT'S A POOL!
LOTS OF PEOPLE THAT'LL SEE US.
B-
BUT THERE'S
SFX: GYUH HYOOOO
ヒョオオオオオ
……
caaaan't !!
MY LEGS ARE SO THICK!!
HAWAWAAAHHH
MY BELLY AND ...
I GOT SO FAT!
I-I CAN'T !!
ギュッ
SFX: TSUUUUN... DON PURINN
つーーん…
ドーン
GYAN !!
ぷりん
グラッ
SFX: GUIIIH SUPOOOOONNN
ぐいーっすぽーんっっっ
KYAAAAAH!
SFX: PUIH TSUUN... PFF...
プイッ
I GOT WATER IN MY EARS!
OHH... ONEI-CHAN, YOU DUMMYYYY!
GYAAS
PUHAAHH
プ……

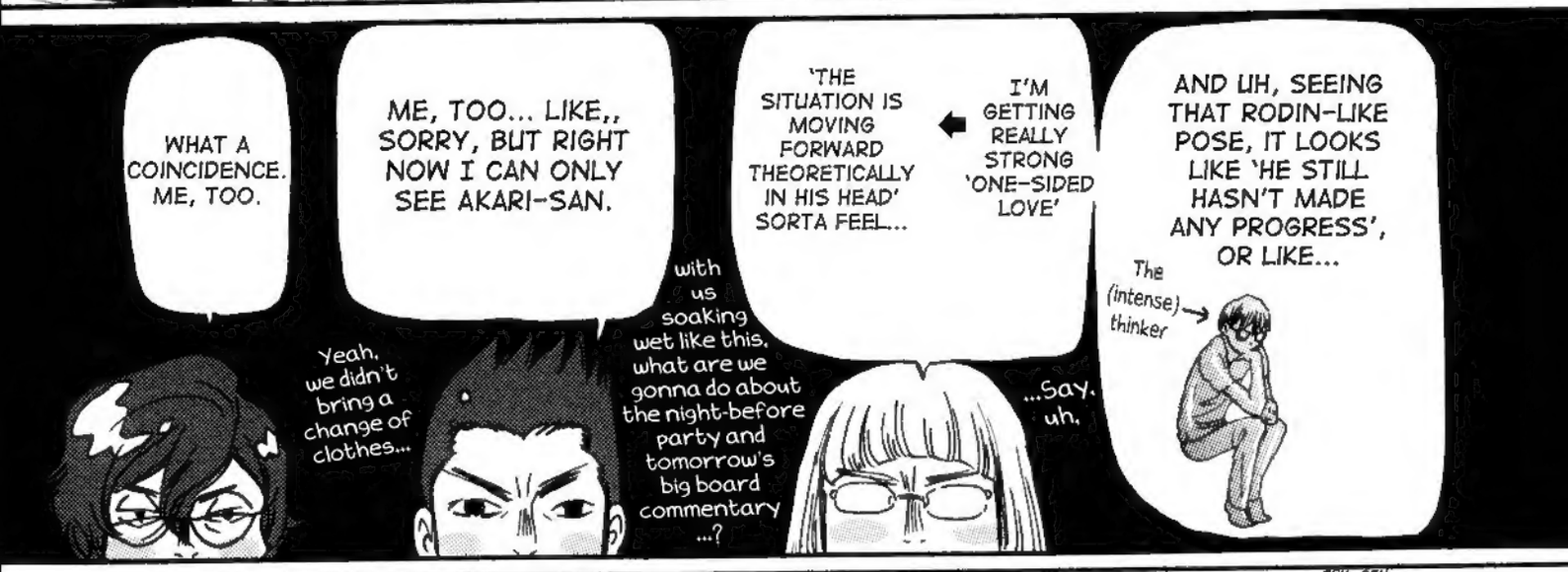

KYAH KYAH
KYARA
2 minutes later
Already enjoying herself
KYA
KYAH
*Kiddie pool (shallow)
SFX: PASHA PASHA...

I'm glad everyone's smiling.
Akari-san and Hina-chan are always so frazzled, so even if I had to force it a bit
That's a relief...
I could let them see the beach like this.
KYA
KYA
KYA
KYA
Stop it, Hina-chan!!
I'm gonna push you okay? Heeere we go!
I'm really glad...



SFX: GIGIGIGIGIGI ZARI ZARI ZARI ZARI ZARI ZARI ZARI ZARI ZARI ZARI ZARI ZARI ZARI ZARI...


SO,
AFTER HEARING ABOUT 'KIRIYAMA GOT ENGAGED' FROM THE OOSAKA GUYS,
WE THOUGHT "What?! And he didn't tell us?! How could Kiriyama do that?!!"
—— SO WE CAME HERE TO SEE FOR OURSELVES ...

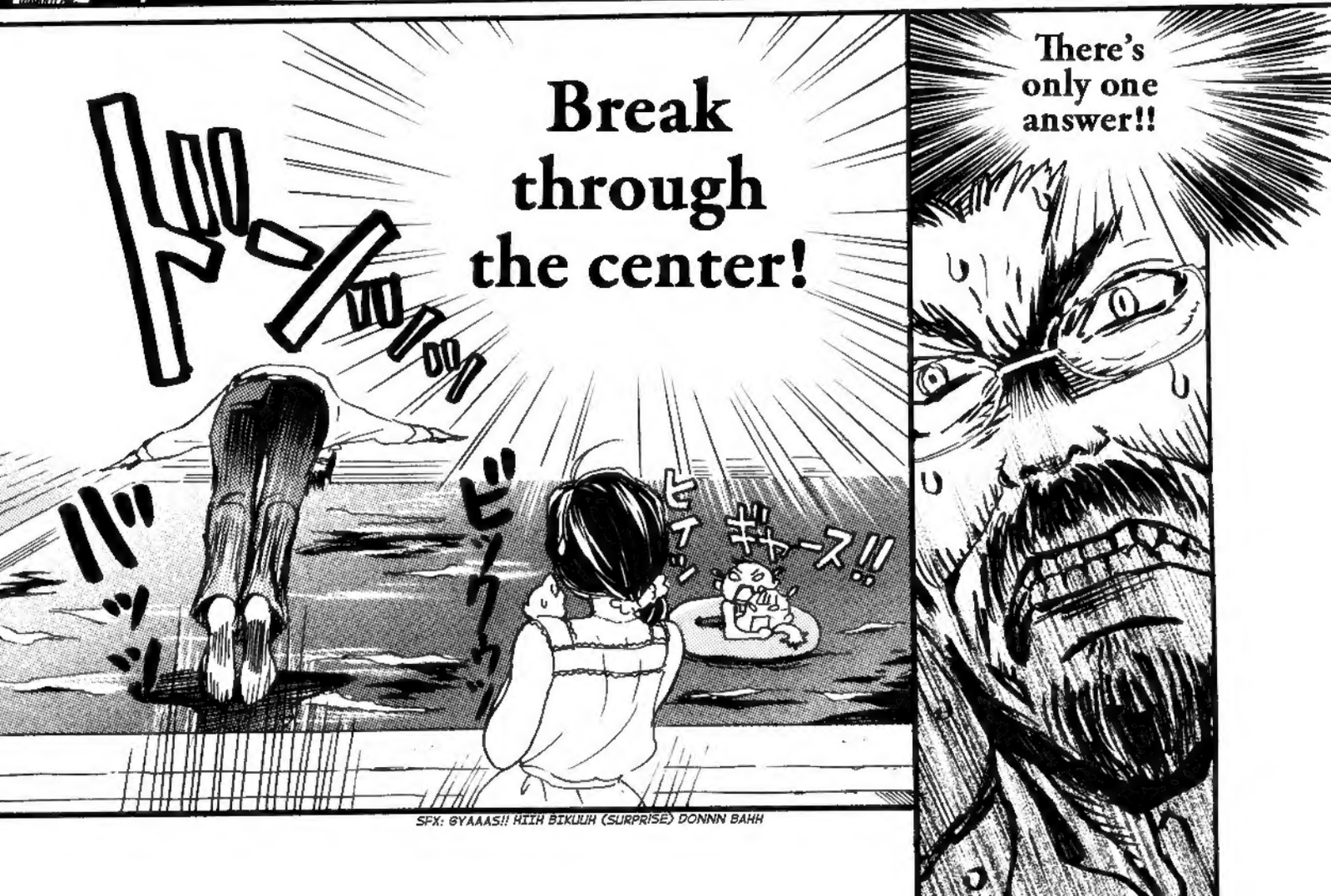

AND UH, SEEING THAT RODIN-LIKE POSE, IT LOOKS LIKE 'HE STILL HASN'T MADE ANY PROGRESS', OR LIKE...
The (intense) thinker
I'M GETTING REALLY STRONG 'ONE-SIDED LOVE'
'THE SITUATION IS MOVING FORWARD THEORETICALLY IN HIS HEAD' SORTA FEEL...
...Say, uh,
with us soaking wet like this, what are we gonna do about the night-before party and tomorrow's big board commentary ...?
Yeah, we didn't bring a change of clothes...
ME, TOO... LIKE,, SORRY, BUT RIGHT NOW I CAN ONLY SEE AKARI-SAN.
WHAT A COINCIDENCE. ME, TOO.

SFX: HUU...
SFX: GIH...
EXCUSE ME, MAY I SIT NEXT TO YOU?
IT'S SUCH A CLEAR SKY TODAY...
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BASK IN IT?
AH, NO.
I'M HAVING PLENTY OF FUN JUST LOOKING AT THE SEA FROM HERE.

THE SEA... EH?
.....
HEH. YOU'VE GOT ME BEAT ...
SFX: ZAN...
SFX: FUH...
Right now, all my thoughts are on the battle in front of me.
That blue sea didn't even enter my field of vision...
HEY, MIKA!
WHAT SORTA PERSON IS FUJIMOTO KIRYUU, ANYHOW?
Hmmm, well, he's kinda~~~~ wei~~~rd,
but well, he's su~~~per famous in the shogi world!
WHOA~~~H☆ REALLY? THAT'S SO COOOOL!
Eheh
I wonder if he'll be surprised I showed up all of a sudden?
HAHH
SFX: PARIIIIIINNN
(Left)
HEY, MOM! IS IT OKAY IF I DON'T GREET THE MANAGER?
I'M PARCHED.
FINE. BUT FIRST LET'S HAVE SOME TEA ON THIS TERRACE.
Me. too~~~~~!
(Right)

HEY, MIKA. WHAT DO YOU SAY, WANNA GO FOR A SWIM?
Uhh☆ We might get sunburned! Bu~~t, I did bring a bathing suit ju~~~st in case. ☆
OH? DID SOME-THING HAPPEN ...?
YOU'RE SWEATING A WHOLE LOT.
MO~~~M, CAN WE GO IN THE POOL LATER?
HU~~H? BUT THE NIGHT-BEFORE PARTY IS PRETTY EARLY. IS IT OKAY IF WE HAVE TIME?
ダラダラダラダラ
ドッドッドッドッ
SFX: DOH DOH DOH DARA DARA DARA DARA (DRIPPING) DOH DOH DOH

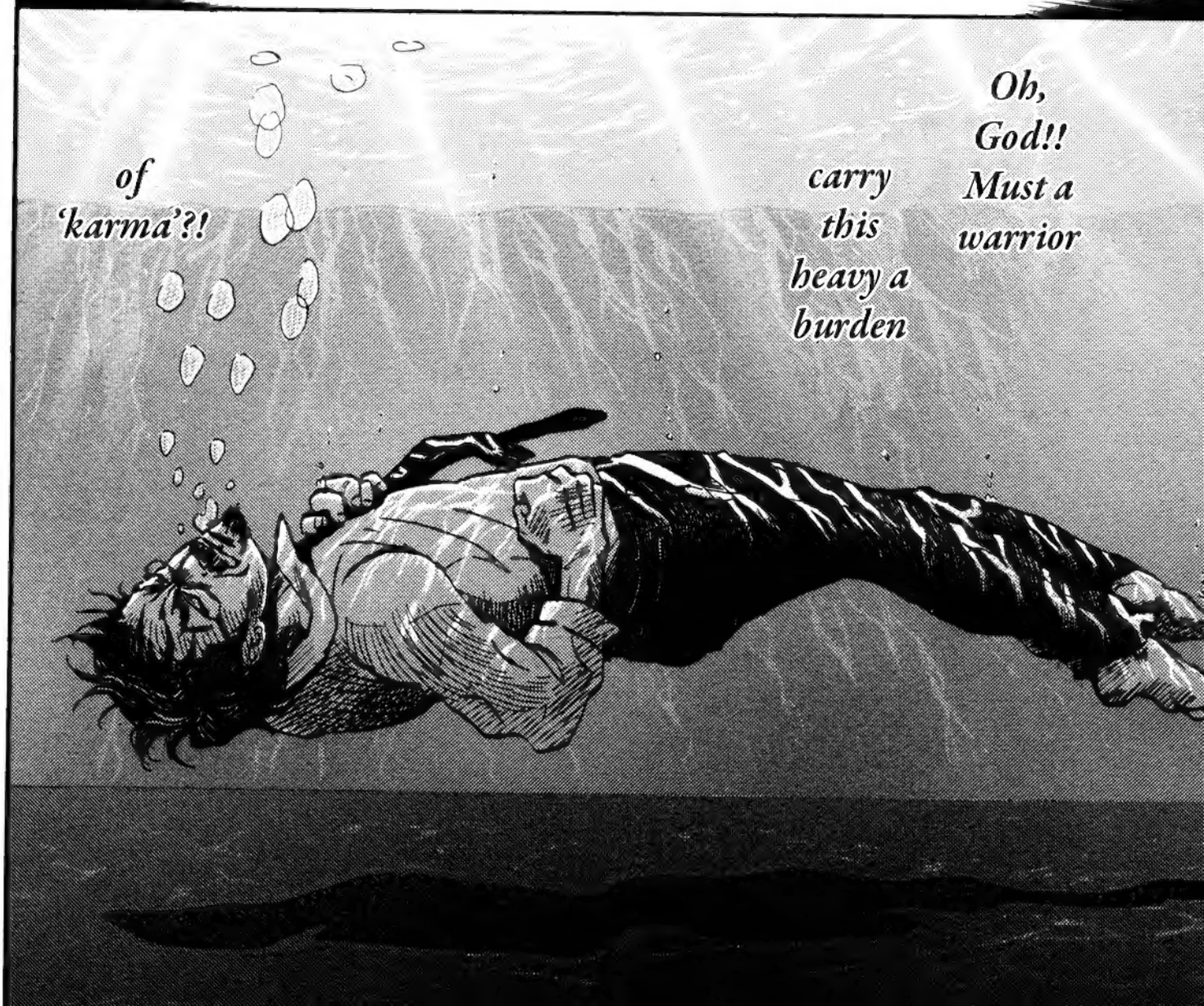
Cabaret girl coming from the left
His wife and two daughters coming from the right...
Wife
Daughter
Wife
Kita shin chi
What will Raidou do?!


There's only one answer!!
Break through the center!
ドーーーン
ビュー
ヒィ
キャース!!
SFX: GYAAAS!! HIIH BIKUUH (SURPRISE) DONNN BAHH

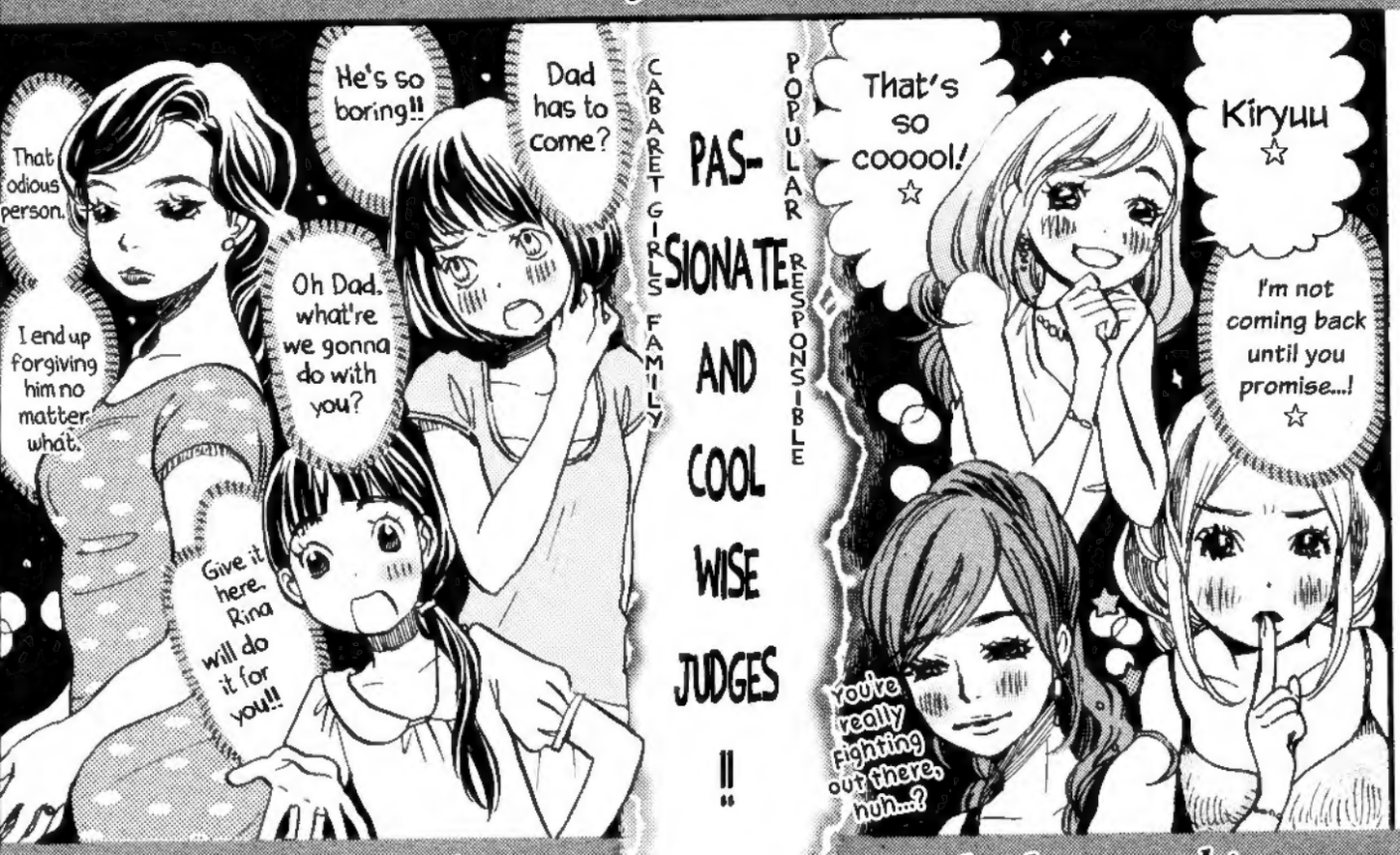
SFX: PUKU PUKU PUKU (BUBBLING) GOPOPO.....
ブクブクブク
ごぽぽ
KYAH KYAH
It's sooo nice out!
How about we go get some ice cream by the lounge?
Hey, which bathing suits did you bring?
Uhhh. One pieces.

6 women with some relation to me have all coalesced here in this hotel... How did this happen...?

Is Ibusuki... some kind of human crossing zone?!!



Women... They're demons...


That odious person.
I end up forgiving him no matter what.
He's so boring!!
Oh Dad, what're we gonna do with you?
Dad has to come?
Give it here, Rina will do it for you!!
CABARET GIRLS FAMILY
PAS-SIONATE AND COOL WISE JUDGES !!
POPULAR RESPONSIBLE
That's so cooool!
☆
Kiryuu ☆
I'm not coming back until you promise...!
☆
You've really fighting out there, nuh...?

They give me everything...

and take everything away.

Money, honor, power!!

That's the only place there are answers!!

No... whether you think or not, the answer will come tomorrow!!

Think...

Fujimoto Raidou!!

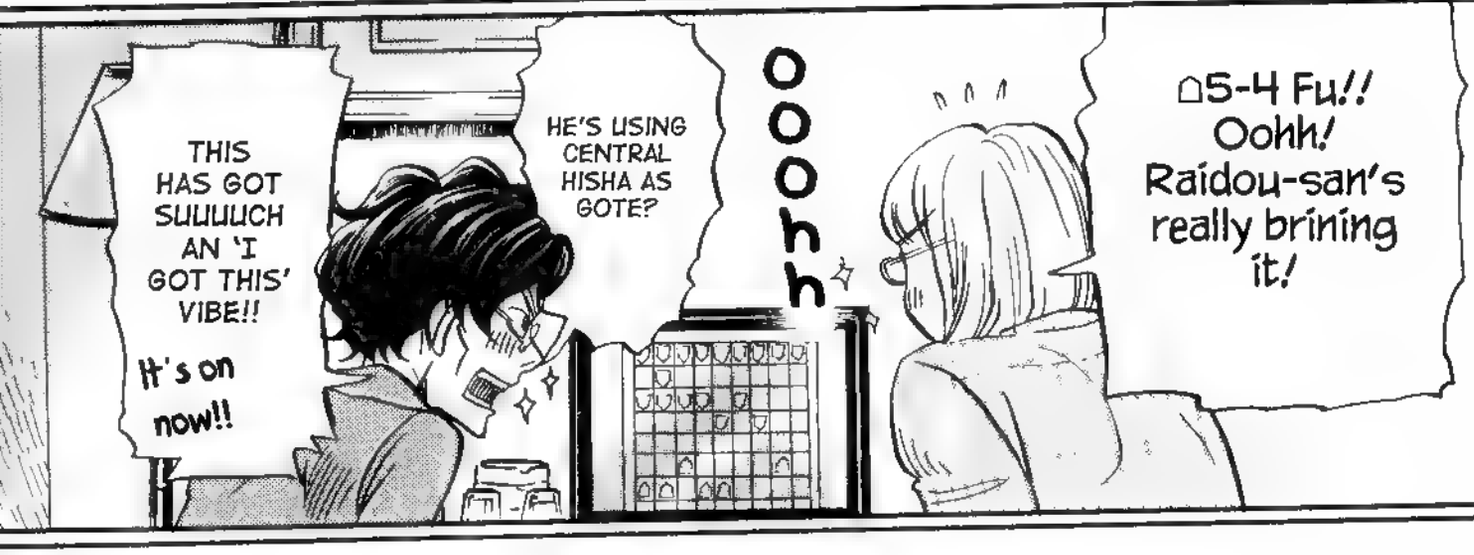
KIRYUU CHAMPIONSHIP GAME 3
指宿にて 宿泊 開戦
白浜温泉館
薩摩
OOH, YEAH, THERE WE ARE!
PAGE 1 OF KAGOSHIMA'S NEWSPAPER, AND IN COLOR!!
Kiryuu Championship Game 3 —Morning
Kiryuu Championship Game 3
Dobashi Kenji 9-dan
Fujimoto Raidou Kiryuu
It makes it look like they're the main focus... Sheesh...
What got into them? They have no ability to keep calm.....
Apparently they fell in the pool?
*Did not get dry.
WHEW. I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WAS GONNA HAPPEN WHEN THE THREE OF YOU SHOWED UP AT THE NIGHT BEFORE PARTY WEARING T-SHIRTS YOU'D BOUGHT AT THE GIFT SHOP...
SHIM
薩摩
OH, THE CHALLENGER HAS APPEARED!!
WILL DOABSHI 9-DAN TAKE THE TITLE?!!
WILL RAIDOU-SAN WEATHER THE STORM?!

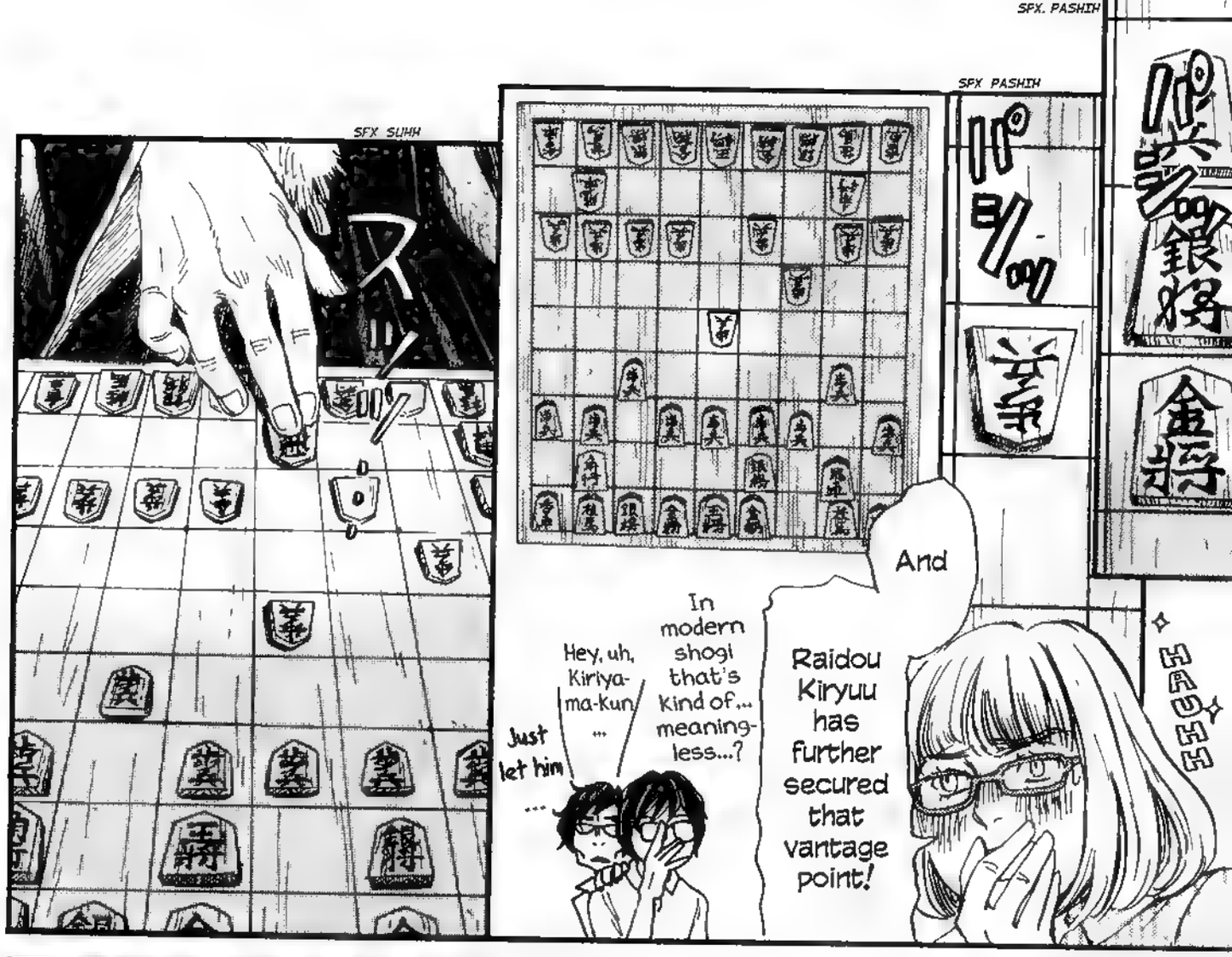
SFX. PACHIH
Sente, Dobashi
7-6 Fu
LET'S HAVE A GOOD GAME.

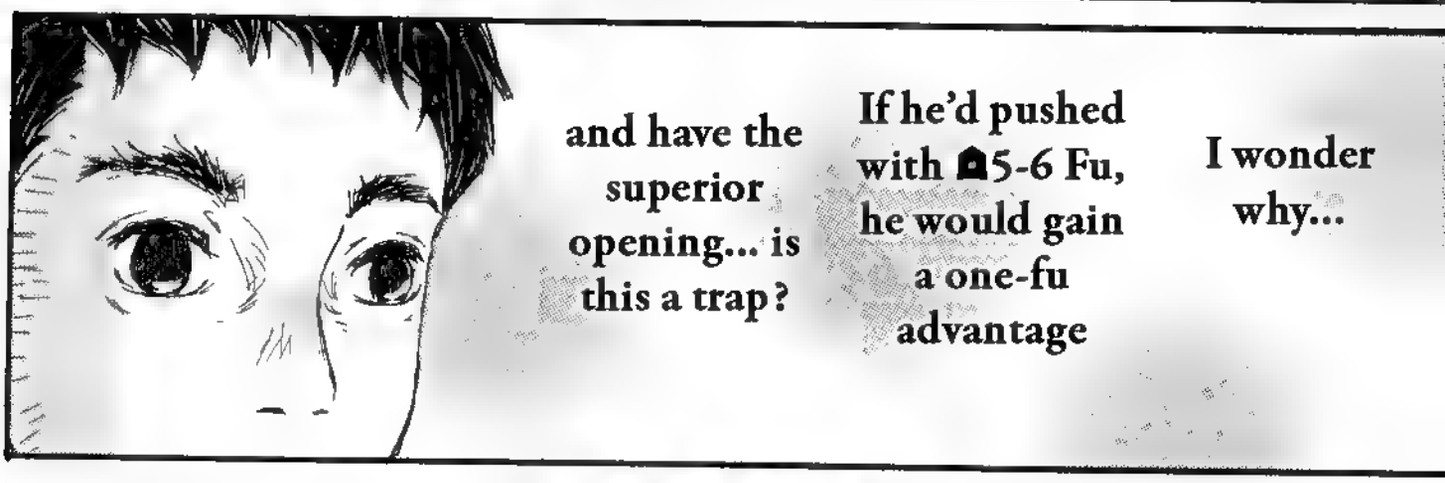
SFX. SUH

3-4 Fu
2-6 Fu

SFX. BACHIHH


THIS HAS GOT SUUUUCH AN 'I GOT THIS' VIBE!!
It's on now!!
HE'S USING CENTRAL HISHA AS GOTE?
Oooh
5-4 Fu!! Oohh! Raidou-san's really brining it!


SFX. PASHIH
SFX SUHH
SFX PASHIH
And
Raidou Kiryuu has further secured that vantage point!
In modern shogi that's kind of... meaning-less...?
Hey, uh, Kiriya-ma-kun ...
Just let him ...
HAUHH


and have the superior opening... is this a trap?
If he'd pushed with ☗5-6 Fu, he would gain a one-fu advantage
I wonder why...

In that case... That'd be great.
If that's what's happening...
I really, really wanna see that!!
— But
there might be something past here that could have great research value...

This is gonna be such good research!
So it is Anaguma!
SFX: SUH
SFX: HMPH
Indeed!!
SFX: CHIRAH (GLANCE)
Anaguma?
...So then
9-6 Fu...
SFX: SUH
SFX: SOWA SOWA
OH, FINALLY ...
YES, RAIDOU KIRYUU HAS ANAGUMA'D !!
SOOO, WILL HE ANAGUMA ..? WHAT'LL IT BE?
パチ!!
Anaguma Complete!!
NOW HOW WILL DOBASHI 9-DAN RESPOND?!
OKAY,
うず
うず
うず...
SFX: UZU UZU UZU... (EXCITED)

SFX: BANNN
SFX: DONNN
I'll cast my vote for the interesting route!!
どんっっ
That's Dobashi-paisen for ya!! He's totally on board this!!
Oh, paisen... He's got such a weakness for interesting play. But I love that about him.
Was that an oversight?
Kiriyama-kun... Do you have any sense of adventure?
GEEN
AW
SFX: KYUN BOSO (WHISPER)

— So you're on board, eh, Dobashi.....?

T/N: PAISEN IS SENPAI (POLITE TERM FOR A SENIOR IN A SCHOOL OR JOB) WITH THE SYLLABLES SWITCHED AROUND AS A SORTA CUTE NICKNAME.

Never shall I hand over the title of Kiryuu to you.
No matter what treacherous terrain I must traverse,
I will endure this!!
— This is my 'Tsuri-Nobuse' !!!
Get a good taste!!

T/N: TSURI-NOBUSE A TACTIC FROM THE WARRING STATES ERA

Chapter 118 END

Senzaki Manabu's Lion Shogi Column
AN ARTICLE BY SENZAKI MANABU 2

ON SHOGI PLAYERS' SUMMER VACATIONS

Professional shogi players honestly have no real vacations. Any time they don't have matches or other work are essentially their vacations. Even if workloads vary from person to person, generally if a player wins they get busy, and if they lose, they have free time. Rinse and repeat.

Whew. Though honestly, it sure is hot out. I'm writing this on August 5th. And the heat tonight is overpowering my AC. I'm dripping with sweat right now. Man having to work in heat like this is just... painful. Course, I'd still rather be here than in front of a shogi board all day today.

Apparently the old shogi players used to be the same way. There were barely any matches in August. When I became a pro over 20 years ago, whenever there was a match in the summer, people said you'd probably win if you just showed up. But it makes me wonder how people played shogi matches before air conditioning. It's beyond my imagination. Though I have heard stories about them erecting pillars of ice and that sort of thing. Though I'm not sure if I even know what a pillar of ice is (I've never actually seen one. Though I get an idea of it purely from how the phrase sounds).

Nowadays, we have matches even if it is August. Actually more than average. There's the first qualifying round of the Kisei Champtionship, the Asahi Open, and the Kakogawa Seiryuu Tournament in Iwate. If you recognize any of those, I think it's safe to say they're established parts of the shogi world.

And yes, they're all tournaments that only last a short time. Though I don't think that was by design, I get the sense that events with longer available time are less suitable to the summer months.

August summer vacation. There are lots of shogi events, so you could say that it's currently the busiest month for pro shogi players. In the shogi industry, when the rest of the world is taking time off, you're busy. And this is just me personally, but I've never gone on a long vacation in summer. The longest I've ever done is 4 days and 3 nights.

I don't often hear much about shogi players going overseas. And you don't see shogi players with a deep tan too often. Though on the other hand, you hear about them going to the mountains sometimes. I guess pros at an indoor game are pretty stoic when it comes out outdoor activities.

I have one unforgettable episode of being at the beach with shogi players. A long time ago, I went to the Gold Coast beach with a player that was winning like crazy at the time. When the player looked around the beach, he said 'Hey, how about we all do rabbit jumps along the beach?' in a loud voice. And he wasn't joking, he was being serious.

So, this weird group of people had no real sense of what taking it easy during the summer meant. A winning shogi player can't rest at the events he's going to for matches and players that aren't winning have time off whether it's summer or not, so they don't go out of their way to do relaxing activities during the congested summer period. So really, there's no such thing as summer vacation for shogi players.

HI WA MATA NOBORU

THE SUN WILL RISE AGAIN

3-GATSU NO LION VOLUME 12

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